

**Appln No. 10/724,382**  
**Amdt date August 15, 2007**  
**Reply to Office action of July 27, 2007**

### **REMARKS/ARGUMENTS**

Claims 11-39 are pending in the present application, of which claims 11, 13, 16, 19, 24 and 30 are independent. Claims 1-10 have been cancelled. Claims 11, 13, 16, 19, 24, 30 have been amended, and new claims 34-39 have been added. No new matter has been added.

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 16-29 in the Office Action and for indicating that claims 13-15 would be allowed upon being rewritten in independent form. Applicants further thank the Examiner for the time and courtesy extended to Applicants' attorney during the telephone interview of August 15, 2007. During the telephone interview, an agreement was reached that claims 11-39 as amended herein include allowable subject matter.

#### **I. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)**

Claims 11-12 and 30-31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Marian (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,688).

Applicants submit that claims 11 and 30 as amended are patentably distinguishable over the cited references including Marian. By way of example, the cited references do not teach or suggest "[a] sterilizable connector comprising . . . a flexible planar circuit which is electrically coupled to a probe at a first end and coupled to the connector housing at a second end, said flexible planar circuit having its second end sealed with the connector housing to prevent moisture from entering the sealing between the flexible planar circuit and the connector housing; and a plurality of electrical contacts formed on at least one surface of the sterilizable connector and on the flexible planar circuit" of claim 11 or "[a] medical ultrasound system comprising . . . a sterilizable connector comprising: a connector housing which has been sealed to prevent moisture from entering it; a flexible planar circuit which is electrically coupled to the probe at a first end and coupled to the connector housing at a second end, said flexible planar circuit having its second end sealed with the connector housing to prevent moisture from entering the sealing between the flexible planar circuit and the connector housing; and a plurality of electrical contacts formed on at least one surface of the sterilizable connector and on the flexible planar

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circuit" of claim 30. Therefore, Applicants request that claims 11 and 30 be allowed (as agreed during the telephone interview).

Since claims 12 and 31 depend from claims 11 and 30, respectively, they incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 11 or 30, in addition to other limitations, which together further patentably distinguish them over the cited references. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 12 and 31 be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed (as agreed during the telephone interview).

## **II. Claims Rejected Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)**

Claims 32-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Marian as applied against claim 30, and further in view of Vonesh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,152,293). Vonesh et al. appears to be cited for the proposition that it discloses a finger-mounted ultrasound probe. However, Vonesh et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of Marian to reject claim 30.

Since claims 32 and 33 depend from claim 30, they each incorporate all the terms and limitations of claim 30, in addition to other limitations, which together further patentably distinguish these claims over the cited references. Therefore, Applicants request that the rejection of claims 32 and 33 be withdrawn and that these claims be allowed (as agreed during the telephone interview).

## **III. Allowable Subject Matter**

Applicant acknowledges with thanks the allowance of claims 16-29.

Of the allowable claims 13-15, claim 13 has been rewritten into independent form, and claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Therefore, Applicants request that claim 13-15 be allowed.

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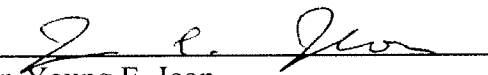
**IV. Newly Added Claims 34-39**

Claims 34-39 depend from allowed/allowable claims 13, 16, 19 or 24. They are allowable as depending from allowed/allowable claims, and also for additional limitations that further patentably distinguish them over the cited references.

**V. Concluding Remarks**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants earnestly solicit an early issuance of a Notice of Allowance with claims 11-39. If there are any remaining issues that can be resolved over the telephone, the Examiner is cordially invited to call Applicants' attorney at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,  
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